

Expressive Activity Annual Report

Submitted on behalf of:

The Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma

Governing

The University of Oklahoma

December 31, 2024

I. Campus Expression Policies

The Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma is committed to providing an environment conducive to the free, spirited, and safe exchange of ideas. The applicable policies for the use of facilities for expressive activity on the University of Oklahoma campuses can be found in their entirety at:

<https://www.ou.edu/resources/expressive-activity-on-campus>

II. Professional Development for Students and Employees

University of Oklahoma campuses communicate policy and guidelines to students and employees through educational programming provided to the applicable faculty, staff, and students, as well as circulation of informational materials and publication of policies. In 2024, the University created an Expressive Activity on Campus landing page highlighting important information about on-campus demonstrations, support and educational programming, conduct and disciplinary policies, security, and contact information for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The University continues to abide by the Chicago Statement of Principles on Freedom of Speech, adopted by the Board of Regents in November 2022. In addition, the University of Oklahoma celebrated Free Speech week in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

III. Barriers or Disruptions of Free Expression

In 2024, all University of Oklahoma campuses experienced spontaneous and/or planned expressive activity and demonstrations. Like other large public institutions across the country, the most notable activities involved advocacy group demonstrations regarding geopolitical and religious conflict in the Middle East. The University did not observe any barriers to, or material and substantial disruptions of, free speech as defined in 70 O.S. §2120. The University took steps to enforce its reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions without regard to any speaker's viewpoint or content of speech (e.g., guidelines for sidewalk chalking, limitations on amplified sound, and registration requirements for reservation of interior university spaces) but did not attempt to restrict any speaker from engaging in protected expressive activity.

In some cases, members of the University community reported concerns regarding particular viewpoints expressed by speaker(s) and/or of harassing conduct on the part of the speaker(s). The University offered support and resources to all affected members of the community. The University reviewed all complaints to determine whether they contained allegations that, if true, would constitute unlawful harassment and evaluated those complaints on a case-by-case basis consistent with University policy and state and federal law.